

LAKE CHARLES STATE PARK

Located in the northeastern foothills of the Ozark Mountains is 645-acre Lake Charles. The lake is loaded with bass, crappie, bream, and catfish. Spread along the western shores of these waters is Lake Charles State Park. Four scenic rivers and 10,711-acre Shirey Bay-Rainey Brake Wildlife Management Area are only minutes from the lake.

Camping, swimming, picnicking, and fishing make Lake Charles an ideal location for a family vacation or a day's outing.

Lake Charles was established as part of the Arkansas State Parks system in 1963. Forty acres were leased from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to establish the park. Additional acres were purchased at later dates to complete the park's development. Lake Charles State Park was dedicated on May 28, 1967.

FACILITIES

Camping ♦ 24 Class AAA sites and 34 Class B sites are clustered in three camping areas under the trees and along the lakeshore. Tables, grills, and lantern hooks are located at each site for convenience. A rental Yurt is available for reservations March through November. Amenities include screened windows and a propane grill. Guests need to bring their own bed and bath linens for the Yurt. Modern restrooms and bath houses are located within walking distance of each campsite. A dump station is located near Camping Area A for self-contained camping units. Campers must register at the visitor center before occupying a campsite. All sites are reservable and may be reserved up to one year in advance. Please contact the park or look online for availability.

Picnicking ♦ The picnic area is located near the swim beach in the day use area. Most sites have tables and grills. Modern restrooms and plenty of shade trees make the area pleasant for a small picnic or a family gathering. A screened-in pavilion with lights, ceiling fans, and a charcoal grill is available for rent (contact the visitor center for reservations). A playground including swings, slides, a climber, and other play units is located in the picnic area.

Trails ♦ There are four separate walking trails in the park. The Cedar Trail is a paved trail that connects the campgrounds to the day use area. The White Oak and Mockernut Trails offer views of the lake and opportunities to observe wildlife. The Butterflies and Blooms Trail is a short gravel trail where native plants attract butterflies and other wildlife.

Gift Shop ♦ A gift shop is located inside the visitor center. Available for purchase is a wide selection of gift and souvenir items, live bait, tackle, firewood, snacks, ice, and grilling supplies.

Nature Center ♦ A small nature center is located in the day use area near the swim beach. It is open on weekends from May until September and provides environmental education programs and natural resource focused recreation activities. Hours of operation and program schedules are posted at the nature center, visitor center, and on bulletin boards throughout the park.



RECREATION

Fishing ♦ The lake is accessed by four boat launch ramps; one is located directly across the cove from the campground and three ramps are located on Highway 25. Two barrier-free wheelchair accessible fishing piers are located along the Cedar Trail. Several courtesy docks are available for boaters. There are no motor horsepower restrictions on the lake, but personal watercraft, waterskiing, and tubing are prohibited. Arkansas Law establishes a No Wake Zone within 100 feet from the park shoreline and all docks and piers.

Swimming ♦ The swimming area is free of charge to use and is located in the day use area. It features a gently sloping sandy beach. Alcohol, glass bottles, and pets are prohibited on the beach. No lifeguards are on duty.

Other Facilities ♦ Rental equipment, including self-guided kayak and canoe tours, is available. Contact the park for prices and availability.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

In season, a park interpreter provides programs for enjoyment and education. Programs include guided hikes, nature demonstrations, kayak and boat tours, evening talks, and other activities.

Program schedules are posted online, at the visitor center, and on park bulletin boards.

NOTE: Campers **must** register at the visitor center **before** occupying a campsite. All sites are reservable and may be reserved up to one year in advance. Please contact the park or look online to check availability.

LOCATION

From U.S. 67 at Hoxie, travel eight miles north on U.S. 63 crossing the Black River Bridge into Black Rock. Just past the bridge, go south (right) on Ark. 117. Go approximately 300 yards on Ark. 117 and turn south (right) on Ark. 25. Follow Ark. 25 for eight miles to the park. (Look for the park on the right.)

Alternate route: From U.S. 167 at Cave City, travel east on Ark. 230 and go 14 miles to Strawberry. At the four-way stop in Strawberry, continue going across the intersection to connect to Ark. 25 North. Follow Ark. 25 north for 12 miles to the park. (Look for the park on the left.)

For further information on park hours or fees, contact:

Lake Charles State Park
3705 Highway 25
Powhatan, AR 72458
(870) 878-6595
lakecharles@arkansas.com

For further information on Arkansas's other fine state parks, contact:

Arkansas State Parks
One Capitol Mall, 4A-900
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-1191
www.ArkansasStateParks.com



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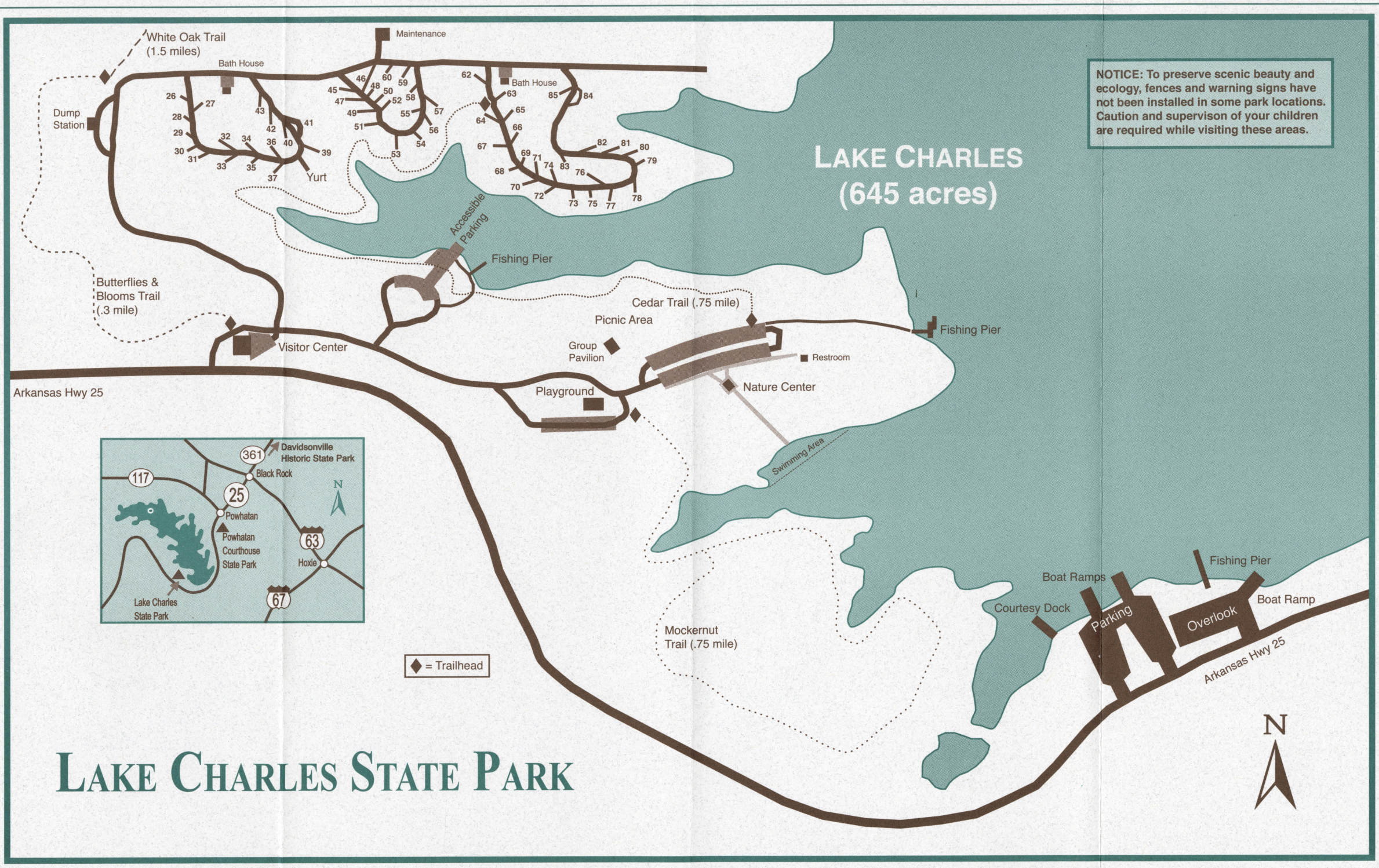


ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & TOURISM



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NOTICE: To preserve scenic beauty and ecology, fences and warning signs have not been installed in some park locations. Caution and supervision of your children are required while visiting these areas.



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